is not the Commission or a Commissioner, the Commission will decide the matter.

- (c) If any person presiding deems himself or herself disqualified, he or she shall withdraw by notice on the record after notifying the Commission.
- (d) If a Presiding Officer becomes unavailable, the Commission will designate a replacement.
- (e) Any motion concerning the designation of a replacement Presiding Officer shall be made within 5 days after the designation.
- (f) Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the jurisdiction of a Presiding Officer other than the Commission commences as designated in the hearing notice and terminates upon certification of the hearing record to the Commission, or when the Presiding Officer is disqualified.

## § 2.1320 Responsibility and power of the Presiding Officer in an oral hearing.

- (a) The Presiding Officer in any oral hearing shall conduct a fair hearing, develop a record that will contribute to informed decisionmaking, and, within the framework of the Commission's orders, have the power necessary to achieve these ends, including the power to:
- (1) Take action to avoid unnecessary delay and maintain order;
  - (2) Dispose of procedural requests;
- (3) Question participants and witnesses, and entertain suggestions as to questions which may be asked of participants and witnesses.
- (4) Order consolidation of participants;
- (5) Establish the order of presentation;
- (6) Hold conferences before or during the hearing;
  - (7) Establish time limits;
- (8) Limit the number of witnesses; and
- (9) Strike or reject duplicative, unreliable, immaterial, or irrelevant presentations.
- (b) Where the Commission itself does not preside:
- (1) The Presiding Officer may certify questions or refer rulings to the Commission for decision;

- (2) Any hearing order may be modified by the Commission; and
- (3) The Presiding Officer will certify the completed hearing record to the Commission, which may then issue its decision on the hearing or provide that additional testimony be presented.

## § 2.1321 Participation and schedule for submission in a hearing consisting of written comments.

Unless otherwise limited by this subpart or by the Commission, participants in a hearing consisting of written comments may submit:

- (a) Initial written statements of position and written testimony with supporting affidavits on the issues. These materials shall be filed within 30 days of the date of the Commission's Notice granting a hearing pursuant to §2.1308(d)(1), unless the Commission or Presiding Officer directs otherwise.
- (b) Written responses, rebuttal testimony with supporting affidavits directed to the initial statements and testimony of other participants, and proposed written questions for the Presiding Officer to consider for submittal to persons sponsoring testimony submitted under paragraph (a) of this section. These materials shall to filed within 20 days of the filing of the materials submitted under paragraph (a) of this section, unless the Commission or Presiding Officer directs otherwise. Proposed written questions directed to rebuttal testimony for the Presiding Officer to consider for submittal to persons offering such testimony shall be filed within 7 days of the filing of the rebuttal testimony.
- (c) Written concluding statements of position on the issues. These materials shall be filed within 20 days of the filing of the materials submitted under paragraph (b) of this section, unless the Commission or the Presiding Officer directs otherwise.

## § 2.1322 Participation and schedule for submissions in an oral hearing.

- (a) Unless otherwise limited by this subpart or by the Commission, participants in an oral hearing may submit and sponsor in the hearings:
- (1) Initial written statements of position and written testimony with supporting affidavits on the issues. These